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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

In my region of Napa CA I was able to choose Sonic for my internet and phone needs. This fiber optic system provides me with a faster internet and a reliable phone service at a much lower cost than the much larger competitor ATT/Comcast.

To be able to function in modern society, broadband internet access is a necessity. Broadband internet access has become a utility like lights, heat and water. Business is conducted online. Bills are paid, jobs are looked and applied for online, in fact without internet access and an email address you are unable to perform many tasks required for daily living. Stifling this competition, allowing a select few companies to control the market prices AND the access to the internet will result in limiting and eliminating access to those unable to pay the higher rates that will inevitably come if competition is limited.

People unable to pay the higher rates will find themselves having to spend far more time and money to manage personal business, study for school, or look for work. They will slowly become disenfranchised from society, will lose their voice, and for many any hope of a better life.

Let me remind you of your primary strategic goal, the mission statement on your website. These are your own words.

"Promote the expansion of competitive telecommunications networks, which are a vital component of technological innovation and economic growth and help to ensure that the U.S. remains a leader in providing its citizens opportunities for economic and educational development."

People of good character live up to their word. Live up to yours.

David Kester